CLAIMS

1.  A key management system comprising:
a unit which defines a tree structure assigning plural
information receivers to leaves;
a unit which divides the tree structure for each
predetermined layer and defines plural subtrees; and
a unit which assigns key information to each of the plural
sub-trees.

2.  The key management system according to claim 1, wherein
the unit which assigns key information comprises:
a unit which specifies, for all nodes in the subtrees,
a differential subset between a set including all the plural
information receivers assigned to the leaves of the subtrees and
information receivers assigned to a leaf below a specific node
in the subtree;
a unit which assigns key information to each of the
differential subsets; and
a unit which assigns key information assigned to all the
differential subsets to which the information receivers belong
to each of the plural information receivers.